



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

DATE ISSUED: January 17, 2012      REPORT NO: 12-05

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
Agenda of January 25, 2012

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the Commission on Gang Prevention & Intervention

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL REPORT. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The Commission on Gang Prevention & Intervention serves as the official advisory body to the Mayor and City Council on policy issues relating to gang prevention and intervention. During 2006, the year the Commission was appointed, there were 18 gang-related homicides in the City. Over the next several years, that number fluctuated between a high of 28 in 2007 to a low of 4 in 2010. This past year there were 7 gang related homicides. While these and all homicides are tragic, the collaborative work of Commission members has and continues to impact the level of violence in our community.

The collaboration and cooperative work of the community is demonstrated by the following efforts. San Diego Police Department conducts curfew sweeps and provides diversion programs in partnership with community organizations (i.e. church groups, non-profits organizations, etc.). San Diego Workforce Partnership, with the assistance of Community Development Block Grant funds, administered a small Hire a Youth Program this past summer. Also, San Diego Black Contractors' Youth Build Program (Department of Labor-funded) worked with youth in the construction trades, and the UCSD FAB Lab trained youth on IT and database management at the San Diego Workforce Partnership Metro Center over the summer. Details regarding these programs are provided in the discussion portion of this report.

Community advocates marched and demonstrated against community violence throughout the year. Groups such as 100 Strong, Leaders of Change, and the Peace & Unity Coalition had a presence in the neighborhoods and spoke with youth and families

about the negative impacts of violence. In addition, they distributed flyers regarding community services available to families in need. The Alliance for Community Empowerment worked with families and youth affected by the violence, collaborating with churches and community volunteers and providing mentoring, counseling and educational programs.

## DISCUSSION

The Commission's Workplan focus for 2011-2012 reflects the collaborative initiatives implemented this past year to impact the level of violence. These four areas of focus are:

1. Jobs (training as well as placement)
2. Integration of services
3. Facilitation of youth activities
4. Early intervention strategies

These four focus points support the 2010 Strategic Action Plan's goals:

1. **Goal 1** Establish an effective, coordinated, collaboration process to impact gang activity citywide.
2. **Goal 2** Develop joint partnerships to help address the gang issues within the City of San Diego.
3. **Goal 3** Establish a data and research analysis process to keep the Mayor, City Council and Commission aware of key gang trends and anti-gang research on an ongoing basis.
4. **Goal 4** Build capacity for existing, effective and promising gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies on a neighborhood basis with current funding level.
5. **Goal 5** Develop a sustainable funding strategy for implementation of Strategic Action Plan.

### **Focus 1: Jobs (training as well as placement)**

**Fab Lab:** Fab Lab provides educational programs in product design and digital fabrication, IT and database management, creative computing, robotics engineering, and solar technology. The programs focus on highly-skilled career readiness, personal development, and college preparation. During the summer 2011, Fab Lab established their program at the Metro Career Center in Southeastern San Diego. They worked with youth from Coalition of Neighborhood Councils' YEOP program and San Diego County Community Court Schools.

The Commission (specifically, Joyce Abrams and Mark Cafferty from the Workforce Partnership) was part of an advisory board that facilitated the opening of the program and

advocated for the program. University of California-San Diego was the lead agency for implementation of the project.

Thirty youth participated in the summer program which assisted them with developing high-tech skills to advance career and college options. Twenty-seven students successfully completed the courses. . Each student received one-on-one counseling for academic and personal needs, along with individualized assistance in developing résumés, creating personal portfolios that showcase their work online, and preparing for college entry.

Council President Tony Young and Assembly Member Nathan Fletcher visited the students during the summer.

**Neighborhood Safety Alliance:** This Alliance includes: 100 Strong, Reach one Teach one, a chess group, and the University of San Diego. The group, facilitated by Commission members and the County Health and Humans Services, was pioneered on the basis of working on projects together that promote collaboration in the Southeastern Community. A collaboration of three groups has been formed to respond to the Workforce Partnership's RFP on training as a result of this effort.

### **Focus 2: Supporting the Integration of Services**

The Commission was part of the planning committee for the County's Trauma Informed Care Conference, entitled "Impact of Violence and Trauma in our Community," in August 2011. The County of San Diego Mental Health Services, in partnership with Southern California Counties, identified the need to increase awareness of the impact of violence and trauma in communities. They determined to do so through the lenses of prevention and early intervention efforts, cultural proficiency, and cross-sector partnerships. The County of San Diego utilized Mental Health Service Act (MHSA), Prevention Early Intervention (PEI) Training, and Technical Assistance Capacity Building (TTACB) resources to host this 1 ½ day conference. More than 300 attendees actively participated in the conference.

### **Focus 3: Facilitating Youth Activities**

**CalGRIP:** The City received \$369,309 from the California Gang Reduction Intervention Program (CalGRIP) for extending 2011 and 2012 summer Park and Recreation hours at four sites in Mid City and Southeastern. These sites include:

- Southcrest
- Encanto
- Memorial
- Mid City

San Diego Police Department leads the effort in partnership with SANDAG, Metro United, County Health and Human Services, and the Commission. The program focus is

Prevention, Intervention and Suppression. Prevention activities targeting gang-exposed and gang-involved youth include sports, movie nights, arts & craft and community barbeques. Intervention Activities include:

- Mentorship and referrals to support services, such as academic assistance, employment support, mental health, substance abuse treatment, and wrap-around services.
- School follow-ups
- Involvement with recreation centers
- Probation interaction
- Gang prevention presentations

#### **Focus 4: Early Intervention Strategies**

##### **Safe Passages**

There are three Safe Passage Programs within the City: Horace Mann (Commissioner Eugene Johnson who organizes volunteers to stand at corners around the school as an adult presence before school); Bell Middle School; and Montgomery Middle School (Commissioner Joyce Abrams who attends meetings and works on the surveys with the Principal Jonathan Ton). The County Health and Human Services, through its Live Well San Diego: Building Better Health Agenda is partnering with the Commission to support these initiatives.

##### *Bell Middle School*

Bell Middle School, led by Principal Michael Dodson, with the following partners:

- Institute for Public Strategies
- Rady Childrens Hospital's Safe Routes to School Program
- Project Safeway
- San Diego County Probation
- San Diego Police Dept. – Southeastern Division
- City Attorney's office
- Tariq Khamisa Foundation
- Gang Commission
- Parents
- San Diego Canyonlands (a non-profit environmental group focused on canyon education, restoration and stewardship)
- Supervisor Ron Roberts' Office
- Council President Young's Office
- Social Advocates for Youth
- San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency – Central Region

Three clean-up events were conducted in the canyon adjacent to the school. The effort focused on making the canyon path which goes from Paradise Valley Road to the school safer for the students to use. Key participants were the Urban Corps, S.D. Canyonlands, and Institute for Public Strategies, Navy volunteers, and community/parents supporting students organized by Tariq Khamisa Foundation.

A "parent patrol" is now being initiated to provide a safer walking environment for Bell students.

#### *Montgomery Middle School*

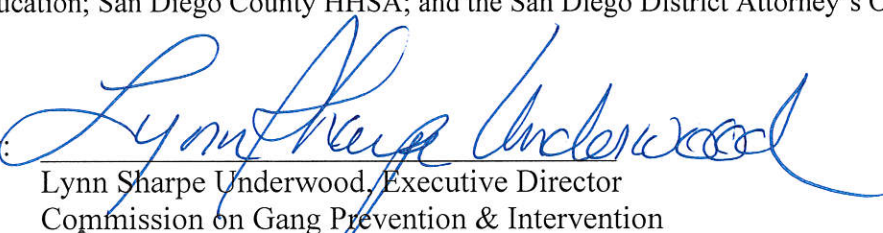
Principal Jonathan Ton championed an effort to include elementary feeder schools in the Safe Passage meetings - a critical step toward addressing the perceptions about the safety issues at Montgomery. Further, working with Rady's Children Hospital and the Gang Commission, he has been the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from the National Center for Safe Routes to School. The goals of the joint proposal are to 1) address the fear of violence along identified routes to school by establishing a network of parent volunteers who are willing to provide supervision; and 2) provide educational materials and flyers to parents and students on safety (includes violence prevention, pedestrian, bicycle, and other social safety issues).

With assistance from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program at Rady Children's Hospital San Diego, Montgomery will be incorporating and integrating the SRTS survey into the Safe Passages Survey. This joint data collection effort will assist with measuring programmatic impacts and position the school to continue to develop pedestrian and bicycle safety programs. This updated survey will be administered prior to the implementation of the Volunteer Parent Safety Patrol and at the end of the school year to measure the changes in attitudes, perception of safety, and the change in the percentage of students choosing active transportation on their trips to and from school.

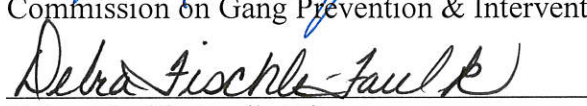
#### CONCLUSION

The Commission continues to demonstrate that collaborative efforts are an important and effective tool to address the level of gang violence in the City. The Commission is organizing a summit at the University of San Diego (USD) on April 25, 2012 to acknowledge, celebrate and support the community's involvement in collaborations. The summit is the biennial Youth Resilience and Gang Prevention Summit. This year it will focus on Building Community Connections (Learn, Share, and Connect), and highlight and build on San Diego City and County initiatives that prevent youth violence and offer pathways to their empowerment and sustainable future. Partnering with the Commission are the Peace and Justice Department at USD; San Diego Office of Education; San Diego County HHSA; and the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

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